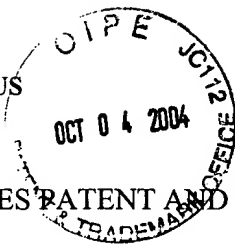


Express Mail Label No.: EV392127391US
Date of Deposit: October 4, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 26597-526 (EXT-26)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Shuber et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/545,162

EXAMINER: Juliet Caroline Switzer

FILING DATE: April 7, 2000

ART UNIT: 1634

FOR: METHODS FOR DETECTING NUCLEIC ACIDS INDICATIVE OF CANCER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 4, 2004
Boston, Massachusetts

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), Applicant hereby petitions for a three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action mailed April 2, 2004 in the above-identified application. With the extension, this Response is due on or before Monday, October 4, 2004 (October 2, 2004 being a Saturday). A check in the amount of \$870.00, in payment of the fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(3), is enclosed herewith. This amount represents the petition fee for a three-month extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(3) as of October 1, 2004 (*i.e.*, \$980.00) reduced by the amount of money Applicant previously paid for the one-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(1) (*i.e.*, \$110.00).

Please charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 26597-526 (EXT-26). A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed.

10/07/2004 MAHMED1 00000089 09545162

02 FC:1253

870.00 OP

Respectfully submitted,

Ivor R. Elrifi, Reg. No. 39,529
Attorney for Applicants
Tel: (617) 542-6000
Fax: (617) 542-2241

Customer No. 30623